

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 AID-20 ISO-00 DPW-01 DRC-01 SR-02

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R 071411Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6327

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: 1974 STUDY MISSION OF SENATE JUDICIARY SUBCOM-
MITTEE ON REFUGEES - STAFFDEL KLEIN/FRENCH

REFS: (A) STATE 117037; (B) STATE 115555 (C) GENEVA 3109

1. STAFFDEL KLEIN/FRENCH MET IN GENEVA WITH REPS OF ICRC/IOG,
UNHCR AND WHO. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS:

2. STAFFDEL MET JUNE 5 WITH GILL OF IOG AND DEPUTY DELEGATE FOR
ASIA TESTUZ OF ICRC. GILL OUTLINED IOG FINANCIAL POSITION AND
PROGRAMS IN THREE COUNTRIES ALONG LINES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY
THIS MISSION. HE ALSO INDICATED IOG PRESENTLY DRAFTING REVISED
PROGRAM FOR PERIOD JULY 1974-MARCH 1975 IN AMOUNT OF SF 19 MILLION
AND WILL BE LAUNCHING FUND APPEAL THEREFORE ABOUT MID-JUNE.
GILL HAS REASONABLE HOPES RAISING ALL BUT SF 4-6 MILLION
OF TOTAL REQUIRED. HE ALSO REFERRED TO \$2 MILLION
PLANNED CONTRIBUTION FROM US FROM FY75 FUNDS ABOUT WHICH MIS-
SION HAD EARLIER INFORMED HIM. IN REPLY TO QUESTION FROM STAFF-
DEL, GILL ESTIMATED REMAINING LIFE OF IOG AT SIX TO NINE MONTHS

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BUT TESTUZ OPINED IOG WOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE AT LEAST ONE

YEAR MORE. BOTY STRESSED VALUE OF IOG AS COORDINATING AND
FUND-RAISING BODY AND AGREED ICRC IS "MORE EQUAL" THA
LICROSS IN DIRECTING IOG POLICY AND OPERATIONS EVEN THROUGH
ICRC AND LICROSS ARE ON PAPER EQUAL PARTNERS IN IOG.

3. STAFFDEL EMPHASIZED KENNEDY POSITION AND THAT OF LIKE-MINDED
MEMBERS CONGRESS THAT USG SHOULD TO EXTENT FEASIBLE MAXIMIZ
ITS ASSISTANCE IN INDOCHINA THROUGH MULTILATERAL INTERNATIONAL
CHANNELS AND INDICATED IOG HAD PROVED GOOD CHANNEL IN THIS RE-
SPECT. STAFFDEL GOT NAMES OF IONG/ICRC DELS IN SAIGON AND PHNOM
PENH WHOM THEY PLANNED TO SEE.

4. STAFFDEL RECEIVED JUNE 5 BY UNHCR HIMSELF, WHO TOOK INITIA-
TIVE TO INVITE THEM WHEN HE HEARD THEY IN TOWN. ALSO PRESENT
WERE CHIEF OF ASSISTANCE JAEGER, CHIEF OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
VOLFING (FUND-RAISER) AND SOUTHEAST ASIA DESK OFFICER GOBIUS.
DISCUSSION CENTED ALMOST ENTIRELY UPON BOARD PLAN FOR NEW
UNHCR PROGRAMS IN INDOCHINA WHICH UNHCR OUTLINED BRIEFLY AT
OUTSET OF MEETING AND WHICH DEPUTY UNHCR PRESENTLY ASSESSING
IN SAIGON (REF C).

5. IN ESSENCE, UNHCR SAID HIS OFFICE IS STUDYING FEASIBILITY OF
LAUNCHING NEW PROGRAMS ENCOMPASSING ASSISTANCE TO UPROOTED
PEOPLE IN ALL AREAS OF INDOCHINA REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL VIEWS
THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS OR WHETHER PERSONS ASSISTED ARE
STRICTLY WITHIN UNHCR MANDATE AS REFUGEES. PROGRAMS WOULD
BE BALANCED, I.E., PROPORTIONATE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE WOULD
BE ALLOTTED EACH AREA, AND WOULD PRIMARILY COVER HOUSING, MONE-
TARY GRANTS TO PERMIT PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT, AGRICULTURAL
ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH. UNHCR SAID THIS EFFORT
WOULD BE MADE ONLY IF GOVERNMENTS IN INDOCHINA MADE SPECIFIC
REQUESTS TO UNHCR FOR ASSISTANCE WHICH COULD REASONABLY BE
MET. UP TO PRESENT, HE SAID, SUCH REQUESTS HAVE BEEN TOO
MODEST, VAGUE AND IMPRECISE TO MERIT ACTION BY UNHCR.
UNHCR DID NOT INDICATE WHAT CHANGE HAD OCCURRED WHICH
PROMPTED HIM TO CONSIDER LAUNCHING NEW PROGRAMS NOR DID HE
INDICATE UNHCR NOW HAD SPECIFIC VIABLE PROJECTS IN HAND.
RATHER, UNHCR EMPHASIZED DIFFICULTIRIES YET TO BE OVERCOME AND
SAID HE PROCEEDING WITH CAUTION, WELL AWARE OF PITFALLS AHEAD
AND OF NEED FOR CLOSE COORDINATION WITH OTHER MEMBERS UN
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FAMILY. HOKWEVER, WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY SAYING SO, UNHCR GAVE
IMPRESSION HE WOULD VISUALIZE UNHCR AS FOCAL POINT FOR UN
RELIEF EFFORT IN INDOCHINA WHICH HE SAID LONG OVERDUE FOR VARIETY
OF REASONS INCLUDING LACK OF STABLE PEACE IN AREA.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM STAFFDEL, UNHCR SAID HE UN-
ABLE TO GIVE TIMEFRAME FOR FPROGRAMS YET INDICATED THEY
LIKELY BE OF SEVERAL YEARS DURATION. HE INDICATED FUND APPEAL

TO GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE LAUNCHED BUT COULD NOT GIVE PROBABLE AMOUNT OF APPEAL OR WHEN IT WOULD BE MADE ALTHOUGH HE GAVE IMPRESSION IT WOULD PROBABLY BE THIS SUMMER. STAFFDEL OPINED US MIGHT BE RESPONSIVE TO SUCH UNHCR APPEAL BUT THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE US CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO PRECLUDE USE IN NORTH VIETNAM AND PRG-HELD AREAS, AS WAS DONE IN US AGREEMENTS WITH IOG. STAFFDEL THEN INQUIRED WHETHER THIS WOULD PRESENT DIFFICULT PROBLEM. UNHCR SAID THEY WOULD CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN THEY CAME TO IT BUT HE IMAGINED WAY COULD BE FOUND TO MEET THAT PROBLEM WITHOUT INJURY TO PROGRAMS. PROGRAMS WOULD PROBABLY BE FINANCED THROUGH A SPECIAL FUNDS SET UP OUTSIDE REGULAR UNHCR BUDGET. UNHCR, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOT BECOME POLITICIZED, SAYING THAT IF PROPORTIONATE ASSISTANCE TO UPROOTED PERSONS ANY PARTICULAR AREA SHOULD BE THEREBY EFFECTIVELY DENIED, THIS WOULD KILL UNHCR EFFECTIVENESS IN WHOLE THIRD WORLD AND WOULD BE "SUICIDAL."

7. IN RESPONSE TO STAFFDEL QUESTION ABOUT UNHCR'S COORDINATION WITH IOG, HE REPLIED IOG NOW VIRTUALLY DEFUNCT. WHEN ASSURED IT WAS NOT AND THAT IT PLANNED OPERATE AT LEAST NINE MORE MONTHS, UNHCR REPLIED HE WOULD HAVE TO LOOK INTO THAT. THIS APPEARED ONE BLIND SPOT IN UNHCR PLANNING BECAUSE HE HAD SHOWN AWARENESS OF PLANS OR PROGRAMS OF ALL UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN INDOCHINA AND OF NEED KEEP CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH THEM.

8. THROUGHOUT MEETING STAFFDEL EMPHASIZED KENNEDY VIEW OF NEED FOR US TO CHANNEL ASSISTANCE IN INDOCHINA THROUGH MULTILATERAL INTERNATIONAL BODIES SUCH AS UNHCR. OTHERWISE STAFFDEL CONFINED THEMSELVES TO LISTENING OR QUESTIONS CITED ABOVE. THEIR ONLY REQUEST WAS THAT DEPUTY UNHCR MACE BE REQUESTED MEET THEM IN SAIGON JUNE 9 TO REVIEW RESULTS OF HIS WEEK'S VISIT IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

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9. STAFFDEL MET JUNE 6 WITH DR. BELLERIVE, DIRECTOR OFFICE OF COORDINATION OF WHO, AND DISCUSSED WHAT WHO PREPARED TO DO IN INDOCHINA AND HOW IT COULD BE FINANCED. BELLERIVE INDICATED WHO HAS LIMITED FUNDS WHICH ALREADY COMMITTED TO ONGOING PROGRAMS AND THAT WHO COULD NOT ACCORDINGLY UNDERTAKE ANY NEW EMERGENCY PROGRAMS WITH OWN FUNDS. WHO COULD, HOWEVER, RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES SUCH AS UNHCR IF SUCH BODIES PROVIDED NEEDED FUNDING. STAFFDEL INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDS WHO COULD TAP BESIDES UNHCR SUCH AS UNDP, UNICEF AND ECAFE. THEY ASKED HOW WHO GIVES ASSISTANCE, HOW WHO RELATES TO EACH OF ABOVE-MENTIONED BODIES, AND WHAT MECHANISMS FOR COORDINATION AND CHANNELING FUNDS EXISTED. STAFFDEL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OVERVIEW OF WHO AND ITS RELATION

TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. THEY WERE PROVIDED WITH NAMES OF
WHO REPS IN SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH.

10. STAFFDEL DEPARTED COPENHAGEN/
BANGKOK/SAIGON JUNE 6 AS SCHEDULED.ABRAMS

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